

REMARKS

This Amendment is fully responsive to the non-final Office Action dated June 14, 2010, issued in connection with the above-identified application. A one-month extension of time is requested. Claims 18-24 are pending in the present application. With this Amendment, claims 18, 19, 20 and 24 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments made to the claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Interview Summary

The Applicants thank Examiner Phantana-angkool for granting the telephone interview (hereafter “interview”) with the Applicants’ representative on September 10, 2010. During the interview, the distinguishable features between the present invention (as recited in independent claim 18) and the cited prior art were discussed in detail. Additionally, proposed claim amendments to independent claim 18 were also discussed.

During the interview, it was noted that the present invention (as recited in independent claim 18) is characterized by a guidance display device that includes a third guidance display unit configured to display, in the guidance display region, a synthesized or combined guidance content which is synthesized or combined from a first guidance content for operating the first display data currently being displayed in the first display region and a second guidance content for operating the second display data currently being displayed in the second display region.

The guidance display region is separate from the first and second display regions, and the third guidance display unit is configured to display the synthesized or combined guidance content in the guidance display region when the first and second display data are being displayed.

It was also noted that Ray fails to disclose or suggest a single guidance content synthesized from two guidance contents (i.e., for operating data displayed in other display regions) that is displayed in a separate region. Additionally, it was noted that Ray fails to disclose or suggest displaying the synthesized or combined guidance content in the separate region (i.e., guidance display region) when the display data in the other display regions are being displayed.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that the proposed claim

amendments and arguments presented during the interview would be sufficient to overcome the current rejection to the claims. However, the Examiner also indicated that further search and consideration would be necessary before making a final determination regarding the allowability of any claims.

II. Prior Art Rejection

In the Office Action, claims 18-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ray (article entitled “The Finder: Working with Files and Applications,” Mac OS X Unleashed, November 2001, Sams, Chapter 4, pages 1-15, hereafter “Ray”).

The Applicants have amended independent claims 18 and 24 to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art. Independent claims 18 and 24 have been amended to be consistent with the claim amendments proposed during the telephone interview conducted on September 10, 2010 (hereafter “interview”). Specifically, independent claim 18 (as amended) recites *inter alia* the following features:

“[a] guidance display device which holds a first display region and a second display region, and a guidance display region for displaying a guidance content, the guidance display device comprising: ...

a third guidance display unit configured to display, in the guidance display region, a synthesized or combined guidance content which is synthesized or combined from a first guidance content for operating the first display data currently being displayed in the first display region and a second guidance content for operating the second display data currently being displayed in the second display region,

wherein the guidance display region is separate from the first and second display regions, and

said third guidance display unit is configured to display the synthesized or combined guidance content in the guidance display region when the first and second display data are being displayed.” (Emphasis added).

The features noted above in independent claim 18 are similarly recited in independent claim 24 (as amended). Specifically, independent claim 24 is a corresponding method claim reciting steps directed to the features of the device of independent claim 18. Additionally, the

features noted above in independent claim 18 (and similarly recited in independent claim 24) are fully supported by the Applicants' disclosure (see e.g., Figs. 3 and 7).

The present invention (as recited in independent claims 18 and 24) is distinguishable from the cited prior art in that a guidance display device (or method) includes a third guidance display unit (or step) that displays, in the guidance display region, a synthesized or combined guidance content which is synthesized or combined from a first guidance content for operating the first display data currently being displayed in the first display region and a second guidance content for operating the second display data currently being displayed in the second display region.

The guidance display region is separate from the first and second display regions and the third guidance display unit (or step) displays the synthesized or combined guidance content in the guidance display region when the first and second display data are being displayed. That is, in the guidance display region, a single guidance content synthesized from two guidance contents (i.e., guidance content for operating data displayed in other display regions) is displayed, which allows the savings of space within the display screen.

In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on Ray for disclosing or suggesting all the features recited in independent claims 18 and 24. In particular, the Examiner relies on Fig. 4.12 and Fig. 4.1 of Ray.

Fig. 4.12 of Ray discloses a display screen that is divided into three columns and provides a convenient way of viewing pictures and other forms of supported QuickTime media. During the interview, the Examiner confirmed his interpretation of Fig. 4.12, as it relates to the features of independent claims 1 and 24. Specifically, the Examiner interprets the left column as a first display region displaying first display data; the second or center column as a second display region for displaying second display data; and he indicated that the right column could be interpreted as a separate guidance region for displaying synthesized data.

However, as noted during the interview, Fig. 4.12 of Ray appears to suggest that data or a data file listed in the second column (e.g., Manual_P3300.pdf) can be selected and viewed in more detail in the third column. Thus, Fig. 4.12 merely discloses that data displayed in one display region (center column) can be selected and viewed in more detail in another display

region (right column).

Conversely, independent claim 18 recites:

“a third guidance display unit configured to display, in the guidance display region, a synthesized or combined guidance content which is synthesized or combined from a first guidance content for operating the first display data currently being displayed in the first display region and a second guidance content for operating the second display data currently being displayed in the second display region,

wherein the guidance display region is separate from the first and second display regions,

and

said third guidance display unit is configured to display the synthesized or combined guidance content in the guidance display region when the first and second display data are being displayed.” Similar features are recited in independent claim 24.

Nothing in Fig. 4.12 of Ray discloses or suggest synthesizing or combining content, let alone synthesizing or combining content from a first guidance content for operating the first display data currently being displayed in the first display region and a second guidance content for operating the second display data currently being displayed in the second display region, as recited in independent claims 18 and 24.

Additionally, Ray in Fig. 4.12 fails to disclose or suggest displaying synthesized or combined guidance content in a guidance display region when first and second display data are being displayed, as recited in independent claims 18 and 24.

Conversely, Ray merely discloses that data displayed in one display region (center column) can be selected and viewed in more detail in another display region (right column).

Moreover, Ray in Fig. 4.1. discloses a screen for navigating through different folders (e.g., Address Book, Chess, etc.). As noted during the interview, it is not clear how the display screen in Fig. 4.1 relates to the divided display screen in Fig. 4.12.

However, similar to Fig. 4.12, Fig. 4.1 of Ray clearly fails to disclose or suggest synthesizing or combining content, let alone synthesizing or combining content from a first guidance content for operating the first display data currently being displayed in the first display

region and a second guidance content for operating the second display data currently being displayed in the second display region, as recited in independent claims 18 and 24.

Additionally, Ray in Fig. 4.1 fails to disclose or suggest displaying synthesized or combined guidance content in a guidance display region when first and second display data are being displayed, as recited in independent claims 18 and 24

Based on the above discussion, Ray fails to anticipate or render obvious the features of independent claims 18 and 24 (as amended). Likewise, Ray fails to anticipate or render obvious the features of claims 19-23 at least by virtue of their dependencies from independent claim 18.

III Conclusion

In light of the above, the Applicants submit that all the claims are patentable over the prior art of record. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action, and pass the present application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Hideaki YAJIMA et al.

/Mark D. Pratt/
By: 2010.09.16 12:38:36 -04'00'
Mark D. Pratt
Registration No. 45794
Attorney for Applicants

MDP/mac
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
September 16, 2010